

Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1864.

Weekly National Intelligencer.

By GALE & SEATON.

JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

The subscription price of this paper for a year is TWO DOLLARS, payable in advance.

A reduction of 20 per cent. (one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, ten copies of the Weekly paper; and a reduction of 25 per cent. (one-fourth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for, at one time, twenty or more copies.

No accounts being kept for this paper, it will not be sent to any one unless paid for in advance, nor any longer than the time for which it is paid.

THE FORGED PROCLAMATION.

The criminal fraud just practised on the New York press by the fabrication of the spurious Presidential proclamation does not rise to the dignity of the famous "moon hoax" of Mr. Locke, but is about as ingenious as the pretended annual message of President Van Buren to Congress in 1838, though not as innocent as was that amusing invention. This fraud of Wednesday morning on the press of New York caused a great sensation in that excited city until the deception was discovered, and then the trick itself was the great topic of the day. It has not been traced to its authors, although it would seem to have originated in New York, and the detectives have been on the alert.

The spurious document, it appears, was carried to the different printing offices in manifold writing in the semblance of telegraph news, but as late as an hour that it obtained admission in but two or three journals, the others having gone to press. Even the proprietors of those papers which gave currency to the forgery had left their offices, and the employees who inserted it had no suspicion that it was not genuine telegraphic news. The publication of the document, however, was followed by serious consequences to the proprietors of the journals thus imposed upon.

We learn from the New York papers received last night that Gen. Dix, by direction of the Secretary of War, had on Wednesday suppressed the two newspapers which gave publicity to the spurious proclamation—the *Journal of Commerce* and the *World*—and ordered the editors of those papers to be imprisoned in Fort Lafayette. (The latter part of the order, it appears, was subsequently suspended.) This seems to us, we must say, a very harsh proceeding—to inflict a severe punishment on citizens of honor and character for being the victims of an infamous fraud. It was punishment enough, we should think, to be made the innocent instruments of a villainous imposition, to which all men are liable, without adding the penalty of damage to their property and incarceration to their persons. They have published at New York a protest against the severity of this proceeding, in which the facts of the case are fully stated, and which, in justice to them, we place before our readers.

Protest of the Editors of the World and Journal of Commerce.

Will you oblige us by publishing in your columns the following statement of the proceedings of the Government this evening towards the *World* and the *Journal of Commerce*, regarding the publication in our morning's issue of the forged proclamation, purporting to be signed by President Lincoln, appointing a day of fasting and prayer, and calling into the military service four hundred thousand men.

The document in question was written on the manifold paper, such as is used for all the despatches sent to the several newspapers of our association, and had every external appearance and mark to identify it as a genuine despatch arriving in the regular course of business.

It was delivered at our office late at night, at the time of the receipt of our latest news—tools of course for editorial purposes, but, as it happened, not before our printing offices were closed.

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Early this morning the fact that the despatch had not been sent by the Agent of the Associated Press became known to us, and its fraudulent character was at once announced upon our bulletin boards, and a reward of five hundred dollars offered by our association, and had every external appearance and mark to identify it as a genuine despatch arriving in the regular course of business.

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CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1864.

In the SENATE a bill reported by Mr. COWAN, from the Committee on Finance, to amend the act extending the time for the withdrawal of goods on bond at San Francisco and for other purposes, approved February 29, 1864, was considered and passed. Mr. COWAN, from the same committee, also reported a bill to indemnify persons for loss of property from Sioux Indian depredations, with a recommendation that it pass. It was not at that time considered.

Mr. HARDING, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to amend the act of September 27, 1850, in relation to donation settlers upon public lands in California, and it was passed.

Mr. MORRILL, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill for the erection of the Territorial Government of Montana, made a report recommending that the Senate recede from its amendment striking out the words "every free white inhabitant" in regard to voters, and inserting "all citizens of the U. S. States," &c. On a motion to adopt the report of the committee considerable debate took place between Messrs. HALE and SUMNER, in opposition to the motion, and Messrs. MORRILL and WADE in favor of it. The motion finally prevailed.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Finance Committee, reported the bill from the House to increase the internal revenue, with various amendments thereto, which were ordered to be printed.

The Pacific railroad bill was further discussed on amendments proposed thereto, but was not disposed of when the Senate adjourned.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES passed the Indian appropriation bill; and after some personal explanations respecting speeches made in recent debates, the consideration of the reciprocity bill was resumed. Mr. PIKE spoke in favor of abrogating the existing treaty on this subject, and Mr. ARNOLD advocated a modification thereof. The bill was still pending at the time of adjournment.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1864.

In the SENATE a bill was introduced by Mr. WILSON which proposes to authorize the President to call into the United States service by draft, for a period not exceeding one year, such number of men as the exigencies of the service may require. It was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. COLLAMER called up the bill to authorize the establishment of ocean mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil, the pending question being on the amendment of Mr. WILKINSON to carry out a contract between the Government of Venezuela and certain citizens of New York for a semi-monthly line from that city to Lagnayra and other Venezuelan ports, touching at St. Thomas. Mr. WILKINSON said if we were to establish a line with the slave empire of Brazil, we ought also to embrace this opportunity of extending our commerce with the free Republic of Venezuela. Mr. COLLAMER urged, as heretofore, that this bill for Brazil should stand alone, and deprecated this bringing of the slavery subject into every question. The amendment was rejected, and, after some further debate on the general merits of the measure, it was laid over.

The consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was resumed, and the discussion thereon continued until the Senate closed its doors and proceeded to the consideration of Executive business.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES agreed to the report of the committee of conference in reference to the disagreeing votes of the two Houses relative to negro suffrage in the Territory of Montana. Mr. WESTER made the report. He stated that the Senate had amended the bill so as to allow colored persons to vote, but that the report confined suffrage to white male citizens of the United States and those who have declared their intention to become such. The report was concurred in—yeas 102, nays 26. The Senate having previously concurred in this report, the bill providing a Territorial Government for Montana requires only the signature of the President to become a law.

Much of the day was occupied in the consideration of private bills, a number of which were passed.

During the day the Hon. E. C. INGERSOLL, a Representative from Illinois, was introduced and took his seat. He fills the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. Owen Lovejoy.

The House adjourned to Monday, in pursuance of a resolution introduced by Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, in order that the members may have leisure to visit wounded officers and soldiers from their respective districts and see that they are properly cared for.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1864.

In the SENATE the first business was the presentation by Mr. LANE of the credentials of WM. M. FISHLATT, elected Senator from Arkansas by the General Assembly of that State on the 4th instant to fill the unexpired term of Wm. A. Sebastian, resigned. Mr. SAULSBURY suggested that they should be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the validity of the election.

Mr. CONNESS moved so to refer the credentials, and, at the suggestion of Mr. LANE, the consideration of the motion was postponed until Monday.

Mr. FOOT called up the bill relating to the office of Commissioner of Public Buildings. He stated that it had been twice before under consideration in the Senate and left unfinished. He repelled the objection that had been made to the bill, that it was an attack on the Secretary of the Interior, and explained that it was merely a legitimate matter of saving above five thousand dollars per annum to the Government, an expense which had been incurred by the appointment by the Secretary of a general superintendent of the Capitol Extension, which he held without authority of law, and was entirely useless, as all the duties in this connection could be discharged by the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as proposed in the bill. He held as ridiculous the arguments heretofore made in defence of the present superintendent, that because large amounts of expenditure had been made during certain months of his service as compared with corresponding months prior thereto, therefore advantage and economy resulted to the Government. He did not desire to indicate that the superintendent appointed by the Secretary of the Interior was not a young gentleman of fair abilities, a good draughtsman and penman, and had given his services in some way all the while to the Government; but, if he was creditably informed, that gentleman had in no wise given practical and personal superintendence to the progress of this great and costly work to any considerable extent at any time. If the gentleman must be provided for under the Government, for that appeared now to be the question, he hoped it would be in some other employment than this. Mr. LANE, of Indiana, indicated his intention to make some reply to these remarks on Monday, and the bill was laid over.

The Pacific railroad bill then came up as the unfinished business. The bill in its details was discussed at considerable length, and various amendments were adopted, when, on motion of Mr. MORGAN, the Senate went into Executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES did not sit on Saturday, having adjourned from Friday to Monday.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1864.

In the SENATE a message was received from the Secretary of War, in response to a resolution of May 12th, giving a list of all general officers, regular and volunteer, in the military service before and since the commencement of the present war, their respective States, dates of appointment, confirmation, &c.—and naming also those who have been rejected, dropped, or resigned.

Mr. MORGAN introduced a bill which, in effect, repeals the three hundred commutation clause of the enrolment act. It was referred to the Military Committee.

The bill relating to naval supplies was taken up, on motion of Mr. GRIMES, who spoke at length in defence of the heads of the naval bureau and against the class contract system.

Mr. HALE replied, also at length, defending the navy agents and master workmen, but reiterating his statements as to corruption in the navy. Mr. DAVIS thought it strange that the Senator should charge corruption and propose no measure to punish the criminals. Mr. DOOLITTLE affirmed that when the facts of the matter in controversy should be brought to light in officer or clerk of the Navy Department would be eliminated. The discussion was brought to a close by the arrival of the hour for taking up the unfinished business—the Pacific railroad bill—which was passed, yeas 23, nays 5.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a resolution was offered by Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, calling upon the President for copies of the documents addressed to the French Government, as mentioned by the Paris Monitor, to the effect that the resolutions passed by the House relative to the affairs in Mexico were indefinitely postponed by the Senate, and, even if they had been passed by that body, the Executive would not have sanctioned them. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. PRYNN asked leave to submit a resolution, which had been adopted by his political colleagues from New York, denouncing the suspension of the New York World and the Journal of Commerce as a violation of the Constitution, subversive of the principles of civil liberty, and as such is censured by the House. Objection having been made, Mr. PRYNN moved a suspension of the rules in order that he might introduce the resolution, which motion was disagreed to—yeas 51, nays 79.

Mr. DAVES, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Elections, reported a resolution that Messrs. Chandler, Sagar, and Kitchin, who have been denied seats as Representatives from Virginia, be allowed mileage for one session, and monthly pay till the passage of the resolutions in their respective cases. Mr. D. stated that Mr. Chandler is district attorney in the eastern district of Virginia, but receives no salary, his compensation being paid in fees, probably two thousand five hundred dollars per annum. After some conversation Mr. Chandler's name was stricken out and the resolution, as thus amended, was passed—yeas 60, nays 57.

On motion of Mr. COFFROTH, it was resolved, the Senate concurring, that the two Houses adjourn on the 6th of June.

The executive, legislative, and judicial appropriation bill was taken up, and various amendments proposed thereto by the Senate were considered and determined. The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1864.

In the SENATE a favorable report was made by Mr. VAN WINKLE, from the Committee on Finance, on the House bill to punish and prevent the counterfeiting of coin of the United States.

On motion of Mr. COLLAMER the bill to authorize the establishment of ocean mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil was taken up and passed, yeas 21, nays 14.

Mr. McDONOUGH submitted a resolution that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from the further consideration of the joint resolution of the House relative to the establishment of monarchical institutions in Mexico, under European influence, which was laid over.

Mr. WADE reported from the Committee on Territories a joint resolution to amend the charter of the city of Washington. He asked that it be taken up, as it related to voters in this city, and the election was approaching.

Mr. JOHNSON inquired what was the difference between this and the present law. Mr. WADE said it simply provided for the deficiencies in the present law as regards registration. At present voters could not be registered after a certain period, some months at times prior to the election, and by this bill they could be registered up to and including the day of election. Mr. JOHNSON said there should be some convenient period fixed whereat the registration should cease, prior to the day of election. This was absolutely necessary. It might be only three or five days. Mr. WADE said he had no objection to such an amendment. After passing the joint resolution to its second reading it was laid over. This bill appears to us to confer the right of voting without regard to the present laws requiring a poll-tax for the benefit of the public schools.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, the internal revenue bill was then taken up and discussed. The amendments of the Finance Committee of the Senate were in general agreed to, but the bill was not disposed of at the time of adjournment.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, the Committee on the Judiciary was, on motion of Mr. WILSON, instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for the holding of the United States District Court of Virginia at Alexandria.

The Senate's amendments to the national currency bill having been taken up, Mr. HOOPER unsuccessfully moved that the House non-concur in them and ask of the Senate a committee of conference. Mr. HOLMAN then moved that the amendments be laid on the table; but this motion was also disagreed to—yeas 56, nays 80. The House then proceeded, under the operation of the previous question, to act upon the amendments. The majority of them were concurred in, but, as some were disagreed to, the bill will go back to the Senate.

A bill was passed to incorporate "a newboys' home" in the city of Washington.

The bill proposing to terminate the "Canadian reciprocity treaty" was again taken up, when Mr. DAVIS, of New York, made a speech against it. The bill is still pending.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1864.

In the SENATE a memorial was presented by Mr. JOHNSON, from the Bank of New Orleans, (La.) praying to be relieved from the tax on deposits under the national bank bill, as far as deposits have been made in it of Confederate funds. The memorial represents that during the possession of the city of New Orleans by the Confederates the Bank was forced to take such sums on deposit, with the right to pay in like currency, but after the occupation by Gen. Butler he compelled them to pay in gold and silver or currency. The memorial asks the withholding of the tax till the Bank shall have an opportunity of testing the legality of the contract. It was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Slavery and Freedmen, reported back the bill to establish a Bureau of Freedmen, with a substitute therefor.

Mr. TRUMBULL, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the resolution for taking the census in 1865, with a recommendation that it be passed.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, submitted a resolution that the Committee on Indian Affairs be requested to consider the question of confiscating the reserves of all Indian tribes who are or have been in arms against the Government, and providing homes for the loyal members of such tribes, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. SPRAGUE offered the following preamble and resolution: Whereas large corps have been and are now being organized in the military service of the United States without the advice and consent of the Senate in the appointment and commissioning of the officers: Be it therefore resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be and they hereby are directed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to the Senate requiring that all appointments in the service aforesaid, heretofore made, or which may hereafter be made, shall have the advice and consent of the Senate, as provided by law in other cases, and that the commissions of all officers not receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to their nomination will expire with the present session of Congress.

In reply to an inquiry by Mr. WILSON in regard to the resolution, Mr. SPRAGUE said the Government was organizing a large negro and invalid force and appointing officers to it without the advice and consent of the Senate. This he thought should not be. The resolution was passed.

Mr. MORGAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to prohibit the discharge of persons from liability to military duty by reason of the payment of money, &c., with amendment, consisting of the following additional sections:

Sec. 2. That nothing in the act approved February 24, 1864, amending the act approved March 3, 1863, for enrolling and calling out the national forces, shall be construed to repeal that part of the said act approved March 3, 1863, which requires that the board of enrollment, in drafting drafts, shall make a draft of the required number and fifty per cent in addition.

Sec. 3. That section 12 of the "Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, be and is hereby so amended that the notice to be served on drafted men may be served within ten days after such draft, or at any time within six months therefrom.

Mr. WADE offered the following, which was adopted: Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, any correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Mexican Minister, in relation to the course of trade between France and the United States while France and Mexico were at war with each other, in articles supposed to be in derogation of the rights of neutrals; and also all other information in possession of the Government relative to the present condition of affairs in the Republic of Mexico, and especially upon the attempt of any European Powers to overthrow the republican institutions of that continent, with a view of establishing monarchical forms of government in their stead.

Mr. HALE introduced a bill to provide for the efficiency of the navy by the transfer of persons from the military to the naval service.

The consideration of the bill to increase the internal revenue was resumed, and discussed on the amendments proposed thereto by the Senate's Committee on Finance. One of these amendments was amended so as to make the tax on a barrel of ale, beer, or other fermented liquors one dollar and twenty-five cents, instead of one dollar and fifty cents. The other amendments of the Finance Committee, so far as the bill progressed, were retained.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a report was made by Mr. MORRILL, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses in relation to the pay of colored troops, as provided for in the army bill. The report makes a distinction in favor of such of those troops as were promised pay equal to the white soldiers, leaving other similar questions to be determined according to the law. Mr. STEVENS opposed the report. He said that on a prior day the House passed, by a large vote, a proviso that all free colored men shall receive the full pay of white men. The committee of conference have discarded this instruction, and have adopted the Senate's amendment with an amendment. Members of this House, he said, should not dodge the question. He would prefer losing the bill to abandoning the principle of giving full pay to those men for services rendered in the Union army.

Mr. SPAULDING advocated the paying of all colored soldiers the same as white men, without distinction as to the time of entering the service. Mr. GARFIELD was against paying men money they had no right to expect. It would be a gratuity to give to black men what would not be given to white men. Other gentlemen engaged in the debate; among them Mr. THAYER, of Pennsylvania, who claimed simple justice to all colored troops alike. The discussion was further continued—the points involved being whether the colored troops who entered the service prior to the 1st of January last should receive the same pay as white soldiers, or whether the provision should not be extended to all colored troops alike. The House rejected the report, and asked another committee of conference.

The reciprocity bill was again taken up. Mr. ELIOT and Mr. PRYNN made speeches in favor of appointing commissioners to act with those who may be appointed by the British Provinces, with a view to establish more perfect reciprocity between the two countries. Mr. SPALDING and Mr. KELLOGG addressed the House in favor of repealing the treaty, after which the House adjourned.

Salomon Kohstamm was convicted on Saturday last, in the Circuit Court of the United States at New York, of having defrauded the Government. It is more than a year since he was arrested on account of these fraudulent claims. He was first sent to Fort Lafayette, but was transferred from thence to the Old Capitol prison at Washington, and after being confined there some time, was released, and these proceedings were commenced.

Forty-seven indictments were found against him last June, one of which the Government elected to proceed against him, and, after several postponements of the case, succeeded in bringing it to trial. The case, which was made out against the accused was briefly this:

On the 23d of August, 1862, there was paid to him at the disbursing office in New York a check for \$9,173.79, being the amount of eighteen bills against the Government for the subsistence and lodging of recruits. One of these bills was a bill of one Louis Pfeiffer, of Albany, for the amount of \$1,296, and this was the bill for the presentation of which one of the forty-seven indictments against Kohstamm was found. The Government proved also that all that was due to Pfeiffer was less than \$100.

The Government also proved that the presentation of the bill at the disbursing office, and the defence made quite a point of this failure of proof, as they called it, was the presentation of the bill for which the accused was indicted. This point, however, was disposed of very summarily by Judge Nelson, who told the jury that the fact that Kohstamm got the money on the bill was evidence enough that he presented it, either in person or by an agent, which was plainly the common sense view of the matter.

There remained the question of Kohstamm's knowledge that the bill was false. On this point the Government gave some evidence, and some direct. They produced the testimony of the Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment for which Pfeiffer's bill was incurred; that he was applied to by Kohstamm's certify to the correctness of the bill, and refused because it was false. They proved also that six or seven other bills, which were also presented by Kohstamm at about the same time, and paid to him, were all false—some of them having no foundation whatever, and others being swelled up from \$300 to over \$1,000, and from \$300 to over \$2,000, &c. They proved the falsity of every bill the Government gave some evidence, and some direct. They produced the testimony of the Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment for which Pfeiffer's bill was incurred; that he was applied to by Kohstamm's certify to the correctness of the bill, and refused because it was false. 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